

**Q:** Could CMS clarify the due dates for the submittal of new mid-year plans to be effective in 2005?

**A:** CMS has re-visited the due dates for mid-year plans for 2005.

- In instances where the new mid-year plan is just an additional benefit plan offered through the existing provider network, the due date is April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005. The submission includes the electronic upload of the new ACR, hard copy of the ACR forwarded to LMI, and relevant marketing material to the regional office.
- For mid-year plans that involve either a new provider network or use of only part of the currently approved network, a proposal must be submitted to the regional office for approval by April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Once approved the ACR and marketing materials must be submitted no later than April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005.
- We will allow additional time for submittal of new 2005 employer group only plans. ACRs for employer group only plans are required to be submitted and are due no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005.

Exception: Please note that this answer does not pertain to the creation of Special Needs plans. In order for CMS to review and approve Special Needs proposals the due date for requests was March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005. If, however, a current MA organization has already been approved to start a Special Needs plan and wishes to create a new Special Needs plan (in the approved service area) using the same proposal that was submitted March 1<sup>st</sup>, CMS would permit a new plan providing the ACR and marketing information is submitted by the April 29<sup>th</sup> date.